

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-06 SY-05 A-01
OPR-02 EUR-12 /080 W
-----123845 071759Z /46

O R 071521Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4060
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PANAMA 7292

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN
USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC
O R 071520Z OCT 77 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE
UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2

EO 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.-- RE THE CAR BURNING INCIDENT, LA REPUBLICA OF
OCTOBER 5 CARRIED PAGE ONE ENGLISH SECTION UNIVERSITY
OF PANAMA COMMUNIQUE WITHOUT COMMENT. COMMUNIQUE WAS
REPORTED IN OCTOBER 5 MEDIA REACTION.
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2. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CRITICA OCTOBER 6 HEAPED THE BLAME
FOR THE CAR BURNING INCIDENT ON CHARGE IN PAGE SIX PICTURE
STORY WITH BANNER HEADING: "RAYMOND GONZALEZ ASKS THEM TO
PAY FOR THE CAR." CAPTIONS UNDER THE FOUR PHOTOS OF THE
FLAMING CAR AS FOLLOWS: "RAYMOND GONZALEZ, DIPLOMAT OF THE
U.S. IN PANAMA WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO USE THE AUTO OF

REGULAR AMBASSADOR WILLIAM JORDEN. NEVERTHELESS HE TOOK IT INTO THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS KNOWING THE ANTI-COLONIAL ATMOSPHERE THAT EXISTS IN OUR FIRST HOUSE OF STUDIES."... "IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ONLY THE BLACK SMOKE CAN BE SEEN IN THIS EXCLUSIVE CRITICA PHOTO."..."THE ARMORED CAR OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WAS COMPLETELY CHARRED."..."THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LET THEIR ANTI-COLONIAL AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST POSITION BE CLEARLY KNOWN WHEN THEY DIDN'T ACCEPT RAYMOND GONZALEZ' PROVOCATION."

3. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LA REPUBLICA OCTOBER 5 HEADLINED A LUIS NOLI WASHINGTON DATELINE: "U.S. RATIFIED PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION IN PANAMA." THE NEWS STORY INCLUDES THE FULL TEXT OF THE NOTE FROM ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER TO SENATOR SPARKMEN. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO OCTOBER 6 HEADLINED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION OF SAME STORY WITH TEXT DATELINED SIMPLY "WASHINGTON". LA ESTRELLA CARRIED SAME STORY WHICH ALSO INCLUDED FOLLOWING QUOTE FROM GENERAL TORRIJOS BY TELEPHONE FROM ROME TO WASHINGTON: "PANAMA REGRETS THAT THE MISFEASANCE HAS REACHED THE EXTREME THAT THE WATERGATE MACHINERY STILL YUBSISTS IN SPIE OF THE WILL OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TEAM IN WASHINGTON. PANAMA GUARANTEES TO ALL SHIPS OF ALL THE NAVIES OF EVERY FLAG, INCLUDING THE U.S., UNHINDERED PASSAGE, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AND SMOOTHLY THROUGH THE CANAL 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR, 24 HOURS OF THE DAY AND THIS COMMITMENT WILL ONLY CHANGE IN LEAP YEARS WHICH HAVE 366 DAYS." UNCLASSIFIED

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4. ALL PAPERS OCTOBER 6 FRONT-PAGED "DISPATCH NO. 5" FROM TORRIJOS WRITTEN FROM BELGRADE. FOLLOWING IS THE SECTION RELEVANT TO THE TREATY: "HE (TITO) CONGRATULATED ME ON HAVING CHOSEN THE NEGOTIATIONS ROUTE IN OUR CANAL CONFLICT. WITH OUR EXAMPLE WE HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THE SOLUTION OF OTHER CONFLICTS THAT NOT ONLY ENDANGER PEACE AMONG ONE GROUP OF NATIONS BUT WORLD PEACE. WHEN I ASKED HIM HIS OPINION AS TO WHAT WOULD BE THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE TREATY WERE NOT RATIFIED, HE TOLD ME THAT BEFORE RESORTING TO FORCE I SHOULD USE UP ALL PEACEFUL MEANS. NOT ONLY USE THEM BUT ALSO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT THEY HAD BEEN USED UP' OTHERWISE OUT NATION WOULD LOSE THE SYMPATHY OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD, MANY OF THEM WHO ARE USERS OF THE CANAL. TITO DEFENDS PEACE WITH THE FERVOR ONLY ONE WHO HAS MADE WAR CAN HAVE. HE WAS INTERESTED ALSO IN THE PLEBISCITE WE WILL HAVE THE 23RD OF THIS MONTH. I EXPLAINED THAT THIS DAY 800,000 PANAMANIANIS WOULD GO TO THE BALLOT BOXES, RAIN, THUNDER OR LIGHTNING...I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT I WAS COUNTING ON THE PEOPLE'S APPROVAL OF THE TREATY, BECAUSE IF I, ONE OF THE MOST RADICALS, HAVE ACCEPTED IT, MY PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT IT TOO. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO MORE. WE HAVEN'T MADE IT TO THE SUMMIT, BUT WE'RE ONLY 23 METERS FROM IT. IN THIS GENERATIONAL

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, OTHER WILL BE IN CHARGE OF PLANTING OUR FLAG AT THE PEAK. I WON'T BE THERE BUT NEITHER WILL MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE STRUGGLED AND FALLEN IN OUR ASCENT TO TOTAL LIBERATION. TITO COMFORTED ME TELLING ME THAT IN THE BIOGRAPHY OF A NATION 23 YEARS IS NOTHING. I BELIEVE THAT IN THAT MOMENT, WITH HIS WORDS, HE LIFTED THE SADNESS FROM ME THAT I HAD WHEN I SIGNED THE TREATY."

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SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01
OPR-02 CU-06 EUR-12 /080 W
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O R 071521Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4064
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 PANAMA 7292

5. MATUTINO AND LA ESTRELLA FRONT-PAGED CUBAN STATEMENT ON TREATY AT UN.

6. LA ESTRELLA FRONT-PAGED A TREATY BRIEFING BY CARLOS LOPEZ GUEVARA TO THE LIONS CLUB OCTOBER 5 WITH THE HEADING: "WE SHOULD CONFIRM WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED." LA ESTRELLA QUOTES LOPEZ GUEVARA IN ITS LEAD "LE US CONFIRM WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AND CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR WHAT WE HAVEN'T YET REACHED."...LA ESTRELLA CONTINUES: "DEFENDING THE THESIS THAT EXPEDITIOUS PASSAGE DOES NOT MEAN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, LOPEZ G. SAID, "FROM THE MOMENT THERE IS A PREFERENCE THERE IS NO NEUTRALITY. IF THERE WERE YOU WOULD BREAK THE NEUTRALITY AND DESTROY THE CANAL. DR. LOPEZ G. DEFENDED THE POINT OF VIEW THAT THE NEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL SHOULD BE PERMANENT, PERPETUAL AND FOREVER IN ORDER THAT IT NOT BE A MILITARY OBJECTIVE...HE SAID THAT NEUTRALITY WAS IMPOSED SINCE THE PAST CENTURY WITH THE CLAYTON-BUNWER TREATY. IT IS WE WHO WANT PEACE, TO AVOID THE HORRORS OF WAR. WE WANT THE CANAL TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF OUR OWN DZVELOPMENT."

7. MATUTINO LEAD EDIT OCTOBER 6, "THE NEW MESS," CRITICIZES THE ACTIONS OF TWO TREATY OPPONENTS, SENATORS DOLE AND THURMOND.
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ACCORDING TO MATUTINO, DOLE, "HAS REACHED THE EXTREME OF BREAKING, WITHOUT A GLANCE, THE DISCRETION THAT EVERY PERSON SHOULD MAINTAIN, ABOVE ALL ONE WHO IS CLOAKED IN THE LOFTY GOWN HE WEARS, WHEN HE MAKES PUBLIC SECRETS THAT ARE THE EXCLUSIVE DOMINION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE." THURMOND, SAYS MATUTINO, ACCUSES BOTH THE JOINT CHIEFS, WHOM HE "BATHES IN BRIGHT YELLOW FOR DESCRIBING THEM AS TREMBLING CHILDREN BEFORE THE THREAT OF DISMISSAL OR A SLOW DOWN IN THE ADVANCE OF THEIR CAREERS" AND PRESIDENT CARTER WHOM HE ACCUSES OF "EXTORSION" AGAINST THE PENTAGON CHIEFS.

8. MATUTINO CONCLUDES: "RESOURCES TRULY NOT EDIFYING. ATTACKS THAT MAKE THE ATTACKER LOOK BAD, MUCH WORSE THAN THE OBJECTS OF THEIR THRUSTS. BUT WHICH, ALL IN ALL, FORM PART OF THE PICTURESQUE PATCHWORK QUILT OF MANY COLORS INTO WHICH THEY WANT TO CONVERT THE TREATY DISCUSSION IN THE GREAT NATION OF THE NORTH."

9. POPULAR COLUMNIST "MOYOLANDIA" WRITING ON EDITORIAL PAGE OF MATUTINO AGREES FORESQUARE WITH THE TREATY INTERPRETATION OF SECRETARY VANCE. HE QUOTES SEVERAL LINES FROM THE SECRETARY'S SFRC STATEMENT AND CONCLUDES "THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR INTERPRETATION AND THEIRS WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECTS COVERED BY SECRETARY VANCE."

10. RICARDO LINCE, IN HIS REGULAR COLUMN IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO, OCTOBER 6, REPUDIATES THE ACT OF THE STUDENTS IN BURNING THE EMBASSY CAR. ITEM
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GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e645734-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 996163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTIONS FOLG SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC O R 071520Z OCT 77 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR ACTI
TAGS: SOPN, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e645734-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009